# Chloride

- Chloride is the most abundant anion in the blood and plays an important role in acid-base homeostasis. **When a disturbance in chloride is found, it is important to check the patient's volume status and acid/base balance and then correct any abnormalities.**
- Chloride levels may reflect the sodium and water balance of the patient. Correction of volume status, paying attention to hyponatraemia or hypernatraemia, should correct chloride levels in most patients.
- A common cause of high chloride in an in-patient setting is iatrogenic chloride overload from infusion of chloride-rich fluids such as 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline). **Chloride should always be measured when monitoring patients on intravenous fluid therapy**
- Chloride levels will usually return to normal with appropriate treatment of the underlying cause.